

# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC# **306-2016**

## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: July 19, 2016

SUBJECT: **ADL Doris & Murray Felton Excellence in Law Enforcement Award Given to Miami Beach Police Department Detective Juan Sanchez**

This Letter to the City Commission is to announce the selection of MBPD Detective Juan Sanchez by the Anti-Defamation League for the 2015 Doris and Murray Felton Excellence in Law Enforcement Award.

The Doris and Murray Felton Excellence in Law Enforcement is provided to a member of the law enforcement community within the State of Florida that demonstrates relentless dedication to containing and minimizing the prevalence and severity of hate-motivated behavior. Specific criteria include leadership, particular progress or advancement, general excellence, novel approaches, extraordinary casework and/or prosecution, and dedication to training in the areas of hate crimes, terrorism or extremism.

Detective Sanchez was nominated for this honor based on his hard work and dedication to developing the MBPD's hate crimes reporting process and training module, for his role with the U.S. Department of Justice in creating a national model for police interaction with the transgender community, and for his success as a liaison to the LGBT Community on behalf of law enforcement in Miami Beach and Miami-Dade County.

MBPD's much-admired hate crimes reporting process assists the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office and the U.S. Attorney's office in pursuing justice and filing the appropriate charges in these extraordinarily sensitive cases. When a hate crime occurs in the city, Detective Sanchez becomes the Department's coordinator of the investigation and subsequent prosecution. If an arrest is made, he is the lead liaison to the State of Attorney's Office or U.S. Attorney's Office. He follows the investigation throughout the entire process, providing assistance as requested and reassurance and thorough follow up with the victim.

Detective Sanchez is also tasked with monitoring the Department's Hate Crimes Hotline, and he responds accordingly 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With each call he responds to, whether hate-crime related or not, he provides the proper direction to the caller.

No doubt a factor in Detective Sanchez' selection this year for this honor was his role in assisting the U.S. Department of Justice in a new national training model for law enforcement regarding transgender issues, rights and interaction with law enforcement. Detective Sanchez volunteered to attend several meetings at the Department of Justice in Washington DC to help create a new national training module, entitled "Law Enforcement and the Transgender Community." This training module has been rolled out throughout the United States. Detective Sanchez was a key architect in designing this training and has assisted in delivering it to law enforcement and community groups in several locations in the southeast, including Atlanta, Tampa and a regional session hosted here in Miami Beach.

The meetings at the Department of Justice also inspired Detective Sanchez to create the Department's Transgender Interactions Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Detective

Sanchez worked closely with the Center for Transgender Equality to create the SOP. This same SOP has been supplied as a model to police departments across the United States and is being adopted nationally as a new best practice in law enforcement.

The Department of Justice has also called upon Detective Sanchez' hate-crimes expertise, and he participated in two separate panels during a Hate Crimes Seminar in which Denis and Judy Shepard, the parents to Hate Crime victim Mathew Shepard, were the guest speakers. Detective J. Sanchez hate-crimes knowledge and presentation were praised by the Shepards and by U.S. Attorney Willy Ferrer. Detective Sanchez is now working on bringing the Department of Justice's transgender law enforcement training to more departments in South Florida. Because of his leadership, the training is being offered for free to members of the Law Enforcement Community in Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe and Collier Counties.

Detective Juan Sanchez is a very special asset to the Miami Beach Police Department and the entire City of Miami Beach. We are extremely pleased that the Anti-Defamation League has honored Juan with this prestigious award.



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